

## **Fresh Pond Reservation Status Report – July 7, 2020**

### **Effect of COVID-19 on Reservation Usage**

The onset of COVID-19 closed the Treatment Facility and other City buildings to non-essential workers. As water supply protection is an essential service, CWD developed a plan to staff Fresh Pond Reservation with at least one ranger, reservoir caretaker, or supervisor per day for continued seven day/week coverage. EcoCounters continued to log and collect data on reservation usage, but downloading and analyzing the data on a weekly basis was unessential to continued operations. At this point only anecdotal information exists pointing to an uptick in users. As COVID risk continues to wane and CWD staff begin to return, data will again be collected and interpreted to better characterize reservation usage during the pandemic.

Throughout the pandemic, in order to keep the reservation open and safe, CWD worked with other departments to develop signage to clearly communicate social distancing requests, mask requirements, and a clockwise (water on your right) use pattern on the perimeter road. With these new regulations and use patterns, due to limited staffing, compliance and enforcement remain a challenge. CWD worked with the police department to executed patrols during high use and reduced staffing times.

### **Project Updates**

#### **Glacken Slope**

Black Locust trees were successfully removed June 5 – June 9, 2020. Locust wood was salvaged for use in the Glacken Field project, and Universal Playground project at Danahy Park. Glacken Slope restoration will be conducted by Essex Horticulture, a sub-contractor for Argus Construction Corp. who was awarded the Glacken Field construction contract. As of 7/7/2020, construction fencing has been installed and site preparation is underway.

#### **Watertown/Cambridge Greenway**

Onyx has (re)started construction, focusing on the Holworthy Street retaining wall in Cambridge. Funding has been released to remove rip rap and revegetate the stormwater detention basin at the front of the treatment facility. No work in the Reservation is anticipated in the near future.

### **Huron Pine Forest Assessment**

In anticipation of Master Plan restoration work in the reservation Pine Forest area, Hatch was tasked to document conditions during the DCR/MassDOT Watertown Cambridge Greenway construction.

1. Vegetation Characterization (inc. invasive species) – **completed Fall 2019.**
2. Field-verify surface hydrology map – **completed Fall 2019.**
3. Update topographic survey to include Greenway and contours – **To follow Greenway paving.**
4. Perform Soil Sampling for physical, chemical and biological testing; and soil compaction testing – **July/August 2020.**
5. Develop Analysis Drawings for vegetation, slopes, soils, surface hydrology, and existing paths/trails – **50% complete.**
6. Prepare Assessment Report – **September 2020.**
7. FPAB Presentation of Findings – **Next scheduled meeting (TBD).**

### **Black's Nook Pond Study**

Due to Black's Nook isolated location and the closure of Fresh Pond Golf course, the project team has been able to safely continue to execute baseline assessment tasks during the shut-down. Once tasks have been completed, results will be summarized and management recommendations developed.

1. Aquatic Vegetation & Benthic Communities – **completed Fall 2019.**
2. Plankton & Algae Survey – **50% completed; couple with WQ Sampling.**
3. FPAB Meeting – summary of fall data collection/findings (November 2019) – **completed Fall 2019.**
4. Bathymetry and Sediment Characterization – **completed April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**
5. Watershed & Groundwater Assessment – **anytime to check monitor wells.**
6. Water Quality Sampling – **completed 1 round; second round in June.**
7. Fish Survey – **completed May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.**
8. Herptile Study – **completed May 27<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**
9. Nesting Bird Study – **completed May 29<sup>th</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**
10. Bat Study – **completed June 6<sup>th</sup> through June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**
11. Vernal Pool Survey – **not completed (missed window).**
12. Wetland Delineation – **as needed, between now and August, 2020.**
13. Assessment & Develop Alternatives – **July/August, 2020.**